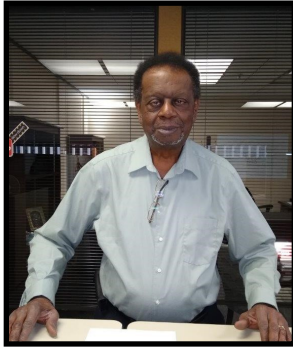


# Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division is celebrating Black History Month by spotlighting employees whose exemplary work fosters the mission of the department.



## Employee Spotlight: Bobby Johnson

Transportation Program Monitor 2  
HQ Program Operations Office

He is an active church member, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and a member of a local Masonic Lodge.

Joined TDOT Family March 1970

### **Tell us about a moment in Black History that influenced or shaped your career and life.**

I would have never thought that in my life time, I would have witnessed the election of a Black President. Even though I knew we (as a Black race) had the qualifications to hold this office, it never cross my mind much that it would occur during my lifetime. So, to see the election of Barack Obama to the office of President of the United States was a moment in history that influenced my life and my career. It influenced my life and career by reconfirming what I already knew, that our work as a Black race has never been in vain, and it made me smile bigger to see someone like me in this office.

### **Which of the TDOT Values (Stewardship, Integrity, Safety, Consistency, Development, Innovation, Collaboration & Family) resonates with you and give an example.**

The TDOT value that resonates most with me is, Family. Since I was a young man, my parents instilled the importance of family and staying connected which has definitely made a big difference these last two years with the world changing so much. So, I take this value to work with me daily as I make a point to be connected by communicating with everyone I come in contact with throughout the day. I feel that people working together towards a goal is like a family working together to better themselves to make a better environment.

### **Why is celebrating Black History Month important?**

It's important for young Black people to know their history, which is no longer taught in schools. Our future generation should know the footprints that were left in the sand for them to follow and add more for the next generations to come. If our youth don't know what great sacrifices their ancestors made and the great things Black people have contributed to this nation, they will never see themselves as the next president, supreme court judge, senator, doctor, lawyer, inventor, or entrepreneur. I feel that celebrating Black History is a way to take a moment to encourage Blacks to push for more and for others to celebrate with us on what we have accomplished.

